AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A composition comprising a fraction activating mast cells and basophils upon binding to a human own IgE antibody and having an atopic dermatitis inducing activity, which is obtained from human sweat through the following steps comprising~~ A method of purifying a human sweat fraction having mast cell and basophil activation activity upon binding to self-IgE and having atopic dermatitis inducing activity, which comprises:

filtering human sweat, removing insoluble matters and collecting the filtrate;

mixing the filtrate with a ConA-affinity carrier and collecting the supernatant; and

separating a fraction having a histamine-releasing activity from the supernatant by ~~anion exchange~~ column chromatography ~~and reverse phase column chromatography~~

~~wherein the fraction activates mast cells and basophils upon binding to a human own IgE antibody and has atopic dermatitis inducing activity~~.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) An antibody prepared by using the composition of claim 9 as an antigen, and specifically binding to the composition of claim 9.

12. (Withdrawn) An antibody prepared by using the composition of claim 10 as an antigen, and specifically binding to the composition of claim 10.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises testing whether or not an IgE antibody binding to the composition of claim 9 exists in the serum of a subject and determining that the subject whose serum contains the IgE antibody is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises testing whether or not an IgE antibody binding to the composition of claim 10 exists in the serum of a

subject and determining that the subject whose serum contains the IgE antibody is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises adding the composition of claim 9 to a leukocyte fraction collected from the blood of a subject, and determining that the subject is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis from the degree of histamine release in the leukocyte fraction.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises adding the composition of claim 10 to a leukocyte fraction collected from the blood of a subject, and determining that the subject is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis from the degree of histamine release in the leukocyte fraction.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises testing whether or not a substance binding to an antibody of claim 11 exists in a biological sample of a subject, and determining that the subject whose sample contains the substance is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis.

18. (Withdrawn) A reagent for determining a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis, which comprises a patch test material having the composition of claim 9.

19. (Withdrawn) A reagent for determining a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis, which comprises a patch test material having the composition of claim 10.

20. (Withdrawn) A drug for desensitization therapy of atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 9 as an active ingredient.

21. (Withdrawn) A drug for desensitization therapy of atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 10 as an active ingredient.

22. (Withdrawn) A kit for diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 9 as an active ingredient.

23. (Withdrawn) A kit for diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 10 as an active ingredient.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a composition, which is derived from a human secretion, activates mast cells and basophils upon binding to a human own IgE antibody, and has an atopic dermatitis inducing activity, comprising the following steps of:

filtering a human secretion, removing insoluble matters and collecting the filtrate;

mixing the filtrate with a ConA-affinity carrier and collecting the supernatant; and

separating a component having an histamine-releasing activity from the supernatant by column chromatography.